APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/702,373	11/05/2003	Hiroshi Kanno	60202(49381)	8448

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EXAMINER
DEBNATH, SUMAN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2135	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	10/702,373	KANNO, HIROSHI
	Examiner	Art Unit
	SUMAN DEBNATH	2135

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>20 May 2008</u>.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-21</u> is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-21</u> is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6)☐ Other: _____.

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
PTOL-326 (Rev. 08-06)   **Office Action Summary**   Part of Paper No./Mail Date 20080825

DETAILED ACTION

1.   Claims 1-21 are pending in this application.

2.   The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a

prior Office Action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3.   Claims 19-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Naofumi (Pub.

No.: 2001-045192) and further in view of Fuh et al. (Patent No.: US 6,463,474 B1).

4.   As to claim 19, Naofumi discloses a terminal apparatus connected to a scanner in a manner

permitting communications so as to transmit an operation instruction for causing said scanner to read

a document image ([0017], lines 2-4), comprising: fingerprint information reading means for reading a

fingerprint information of an operator ([0019], lines 2-3); fingerprint information storing means for

temporarily storing the fingerprint information read by said fingerprint information reading means

([0019], lines 2-5); fingerprint information collating means for collating a fingerprint information

acquired by said scanner with the fingerprint information read by said fingerprint information reading

means by means of communications with said scanner ([0028], lines 1-4 and [0017], lines 3-5); and

operation permitting means for permitting the operation of said scanner in response to the inputted

operation instruction on the basis of the result of collation in said fingerprint information collating

means ([0028], lines 1-6). Naofumi is silent on wherein the fingerprint information stored in the

scanner is deleted upon completion of a reading operation of the document image or when a

predetermined time has elapsed before the reading operation is completed.   However, Fuh

discloses wherein the fingerprint information stored in the scanner is deleted upon completion of a

reading operation of the document image or when a predetermined time has elapsed before the

reading operation is completed (col. 5, lines 11-20).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

invention was made to modify the teaching of Naofumi as taught by Fuh in order to free up the

memory space.

5.   As to claim 20, Naofumi discloses the image processing system wherein said scanner and/or

said terminal apparatus comprises associated information reading operation of image by said scanner

is completed or when a predetermined time has elapsed before reading operation of image by said

scanner completed ([0031]).

Naofumi is silent on deleting associated information when reading operation completed or

when a predetermined time has elapsed before reading operation of image completed. However, Fuh

discloses deleting associated information when reading operation completed or when a

predetermined time has elapsed before reading operation of image completed (col. 5, lines 11-20).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

invention was made to modify the teaching of Naofumi as taught by Fuh in order to free up the

memory space.

6.   As to claim 21, Naofumi discloses the image processing system wherein when a document is

removed before the reading operation of the image by said scanner is completed, said associated

information deleting means does not delete the associated information generated for the removed

document ([0031], which describes a checking is done whether the transfer of all images was

completed and if not completed returns to complete the transfer).

7.   Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Naofumi in view

of Takahashi (Pub. No.: US 2001/0016912 A1).

8.   As to claim 1, Naofumi discloses an image processing system including: a scanner for reading

a document image ([0017], line 3); and a terminal apparatus connected to said scanner in a manner

permitting communications so as to transmit an operation instruction to said scanner ([0017], lines 2-

4), wherein said scanner comprises: first fingerprint information reading means for reading fingerprint

information of an operator ([0019], lines 2-3); and first fingerprint information storing means for storing

temporarily the fingerprint information read by said first fingerprint information reading means ([0019],

lines 2-5); and fingerprint information collating means for collating the fingerprint information stored in

said first fingerprint information storing means with the fingerprint information read by said second

fingerprint information reading means by means of communications between said scanner and said

terminal apparatus ([0028], lines 1-4 and [0017], lines 3-5); and operation permitting means for

permitting the operation of said scanner in response to the operation instruction inputted through said

terminal apparatus on the basis of the result of collation in said fingerprint information collating means

are provided either in said scanner or in said terminal apparatus, or alternatively any one of said

fingerprint information collating means and said operation permitting means is provided in said

scanner ([0028], lines 1-6).

Naofumi doesn't explicitly disclose terminal apparatus comprises: second fingerprint information reading means for reading second fingerprint information of the operator or a different operator; and second fingerprint information storing means for storing temporarily the second fingerprint information read by said second fingerprint information reading means; Any one of said fingerprint information collating means and said operation permitting means is provided in the terminal apparatus.

However, Takahashi discloses terminal apparatus (FIG. 1) comprises: second fingerprint information reading means for reading the fingerprint information of an operator or a different operator(FIG. 1, [0044], lines 8-13); and second fingerprint information storing means for storing temporarily the fingerprint information read by said second fingerprint information reading means (FIG. 1, [0044], lines 19-23 and [0009], lines 14-15); Any one of said fingerprint information collating means and said operation permitting means is provided in the terminal apparatus (FIG. 3, [0045], lines 20-27).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Naofumi by including a method for reading fingerprint information by terminal apparatus as taught by Takahashi in order to "prevent the loss, stain, and information leakage of print results when the operator does not collect the print results immediately (Takahashi, [0002], lines 13-18)". Furthermore, one would be motivated to do so in order to maintain the security of the transferred data over the communication network, which could be intercepted by any unauthorized user to view.

Neither Naofumi nor Takahashi explicitly discloses wherein the fingerprint information stored in the scanner is deleted upon completion of a reading operation of the document image or when a predetermined time has elapsed before the reading operation is completed. However, Fuh discloses wherein the fingerprint information stored in the scanner is deleted upon completion of a reading operation of the document image or when a predetermined time has elapsed before the reading operation is completed (col. 5, lines 11-20, Fuh teaches this concept by removing authentication information (i.e. fingerprint information) if the inactivity timer expires).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the teaching of Naofumi and Takahashi as taught by Fuh in order to free up the memory space.

9.   As to claim 16, Naofumi discloses a scanner connected to a terminal apparatus in a manner permitting communications so as to receive an operation instruction for reading a document image ([0017], lines 2-4), comprising: fingerprint information reading means for reading a fingerprint information of an operator ([0019], lines 2-3); fingerprint information storing means for temporarily storing the fingerprint information read by said fingerprint information reading means ([0019], lines 2-5); fingerprint information collating means for collating the fingerprint information read by said fingerprint information reading and terminal apparatus by means of communications with said terminal apparatus ([0028], lines 1-4 and [0017], lines 3-5); and operation permitting means for permitting the operation in response to the operation instruction on the basis of the result of collation by said fingerprint information collating means ([0028], lines 1-6).

Naofumi doesn't explicitly disclose fingerprint information reading means with fingerprint

information acquired by the terminal apparatus; Permitting the operation in response to the operation

instruction inputted through the terminal apparatus. However, Takahashi discloses fingerprint

information reading means with fingerprint information acquired by the terminal apparatus (FIG. 1,

[0044], lines 8-13); Permitting the operation in response to the operation instruction inputted through

the terminal apparatus ([0061], lines 9-13).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

invention was made to modify Naofumi by including a method for reading fingerprint information by

terminal apparatus as taught by Takahashi in order to "prevent the loss, stain, and information

leakage of print results when the operator does not collect the print results immediately (Takahashi,

[0002], lines 13-18)". Furthermore, one would be motivated to do so in order to maintain the security

of the transferred data over the communication network, which could be intercepted by any

unauthorized user to view.

Neither Naofumi nor Takahashi explicitly discloses wherein the fingerprint information stored in

the scanner is deleted upon completion of a reading operation of the document image or when a

predetermined time has elapsed before the reading operation is completed. However, Fuh discloses

wherein the fingerprint information stored in the scanner is deleted upon completion of a reading

operation of the document image or when a predetermined time has elapsed before the reading

operation is completed (col. 5, lines 11-20, Fuh teaches this concept by removing authentication

information (i.e. fingerprint information) if the inactivity timer expires).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the teaching of Naofumi and Takahashi as taught by Fuh in order to free up the memory space.

10.   As to claim 2, Naofumi discloses wherein when collation by said fingerprint information collating means results in a match ([0028], lines 1-4), said operation permitting means permits the operation of said scanner ([0028], lines 4-7 and [0029]). Naofumi doesn't explicitly disclose permitting the operation in response to the operation instruction inputted through the terminal apparatus. However Takahashi discloses permitting the operation in response to the operation instruction inputted through the terminal apparatus ([0061], lines 9-13).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Naofumi by including a method for inputting the operation instruction through the terminal apparatus as taught by Takahashi in order to "prevent the loss, stain, and information leakage of print results when the operator does not collect the print results immediately (Takahashi, [0002], lines 13-18)". Furthermore, one would be motivated to do so in order to maintain the security of the transferred data over the communication network, which could be intercepted by any unauthorized user to view.

11.   As to claims 3 and 8, Naofumi discloses the image processing system wherein said scanner comprises: document image reading means for reading document image before receiving said operation instruction ([0019], lines 1-2); associated information generating means for generating associated information in which the document image information read by said document image

reading means ([0019], 1-2) and the fingerprint information read by said first fingerprint information reading means are associated with each other ([0019], lines 1-4); and associated information storing means connected to said scanner in a manner permitting communications so as to store the associated information generated by said associated information generating means is further included ([0020], [0021] and [0019], lines 2-4).

12.   As to claims 4 and 9, Naofumi discloses the image processing system wherein a server provided with said associated information storing means is connected to said scanner ([0008], lines 2-4 and [0033], lines 5-7) and said terminal apparatus in a manner permitting communications ([0021]).

13.   As to claims 5, 10 and 13, Naofumi discloses the image processing system wherein either said scanner or said terminal apparatus comprises: associated fingerprint information collating means for collating the fingerprint information stored in said first fingerprint information storing means with the fingerprint information contained in said associated information of the past time ([0022], lines 1-5); and operation inhibiting means for inhibiting the operation of said scanner when the collation by said associated image information collating means matches and the collation by said associated fingerprint information collating means does not match ([0028], lines 1-6).

Naofumi doesn't explicitly disclose associated image information collating means for collating the document image information read by said document image reading means with the image information contained in said associated information of a past time. However, Takahashi discloses associated image information collating means for collating the document image information read by said document image reading means with the image information contained in said associated information of a past time (FIG. 3, step B5, [0049], lines 10-14).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Naofumi by including a method for associating document image information of a past time as taught by Takahashi in order to "prevent the loss, stain, and information leakage of print results when the operator does not collect the print results immediately (Takahashi, [0002], lines 13-18)". Furthermore, one would be motivated to do so in order to maintain the security of the transferred data over the communication network, which could be intercepted by any unauthorized user to view.

14.   As to claims 6, 11, 14, and 17, Naofumi discloses the image processing system wherein said scanner and/or said terminal apparatus comprises associated information reading operation of image by said scanner is completed or when a predetermined time has elapsed before reading operation of image by said scanner completed ([0031]).

Neither Naofumi nor Takahashi explicitly discloses deleting associated information when reading operation completed or when a predetermined time has elapsed before reading operation of image completed. However, Fuh discloses deleting associated information when reading operation completed or when a predetermined time has elapsed before reading operation of image completed (col. 5, lines 11-20, Fuh teaches this concept by removing authentication information (i.e. fingerprint information) if the inactivity timer expires).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the teaching of Naofumi and Takahashi as taught by Fuh in order to free up the memory space.

15.   As to claims 7, 12, 15 and 18, Naofumi discloses the image processing system wherein when a document is removed before the reading operation of the image by said scanner is completed, said associated information deleting means does not delete the associated information generated for the removed document ([0031], which describes a checking is done whether the transfer of all images was completed and if not completed returns to complete the transfer).

16.   Examiner's note: Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers in the references as applied to the claims above for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may be applied as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant, in preparing the responses, to fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the Examiner.

Response to Arguments

17.   Applicant's arguments filed 05/20/2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that: "Fuh reference does not address the deletion of fingerprint information stored in a scanner and/or a terminal apparatus, as recited in the independent claims 1, 16 and 19."

Examiner maintains that: Fuh teaches this concept by removing authentication information if the inactivity timer expires (col. 5, lines 11-20, Fuh discloses an authentication timer for the authorization information and the timer expire when there is no communications between the client

and network resources for a period of time. If the timer expires, the temporary entries are deleted).

Applicant should note that Fuh is a secondary art and cited only to resolve the deficiency of Naofumi.

Naofumi discloses fingerprint information reading means for reading a fingerprint information of an

operator ([0019], lines 2-3); fingerprint information storing means for temporarily storing the fingerprint

information read by said fingerprint information reading means ([0019], lines 2-5). Naofumi is silent on

wherein the **fingerprint information** stored in the scanner **is deleted** upon completion of a reading

operation of the document image **or when a predetermined time has elapsed before the reading**

operation is completed. Fuh is analogous art and solves the deficiency of Naofumi by deleting

information when a predetermined time has elapsed, hence when inactivity timer expires.

Applicant argues that: "Further, in Fuh, after the completion of an authentication procedure,

authorization information and a user profile are not removed, but still remain in the client host 306 and

the database 220, respectively. Therefore, unlike the Applicant's claimed invention, the authentication

information in Fuh remains stored after a session is completed."

In response to Applicant's argument, Examiner maintains that Fuh reference is sufficient

enough to overcome the claimed limitation. Independent claims 1, 16 and 19 recites, "wherein **the**

fingerprint information stored in the scanner **is deleted** upon completion of a reading operation of

the document image **or when a predetermined time has elapsed before the reading operation is**

completed." Someone with ordinary skill in the art would interpret that the information is deleted

either when reading operation is complete or when a predetermined time has elapsed before the

reading operation is completed. Hence, Fuh teaches the claimed limitation by removing

authentication information if the inactivity timer expires (e.g. see, col. 5, and lines 11-20).

Conclusion

18.   **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set

forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from

the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing

date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH

shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory

action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the

mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire

later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

19.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner

should be directed to SUMAN DEBNATH whose telephone number is (571)270-1256. The examiner

can normally be reached on 8 am to 5 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor,

Kim Y. Vu can be reached on 571 272-3859. The fax phone number for the organization where this

application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application

Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained

from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available

through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-

direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the

Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a

USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-

786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/S. D./
Examiner, Art Unit 2135

/KimYen Vu/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2135